

Center. Both organizations, as well as leading women athletes, support transgender inclusion in sports.

Major athletic bodies such as the International Olympic Committee and NCAA have guidelines for the participation of transgender athletes, and these bodies reject the type of systematic exclusion of transgender people from sports that anti-LGBTQ+ politicians are pushing.

This isn't about a real problem in this Nation. This is part of a larger coordinated attack against transgender people and the larger LGBTQ+ population. We have seen hundreds of anti-equality bills, many specifically targeting transgender people introduced in States across the country this year.

Unfortunately, this is about building the personal brand of some extreme rightwing politicians, people who fundraise from and appeal to a small subset of their political base, rather than about a real problem in this country.

These bullying politicians will endanger the lives of trans kids for their own political purposes, seemingly with the support of GOP leadership.

I guess we shouldn't be surprised. Not one Republican in leadership called out the comments last week by a conservative speaker at the CPAC conference who called for the eradication of transgender people.

This isn't about sports. This is about attacking trans and LGBTQ+ kids and the extreme MAGA politics of that issue, not the substance of just letting kids play. That is heartless and cruel.

We will fight these attacks hard. We will call out this dangerous demagoguery, and we will make sure the public sees it for what it is—raw, swampy politics, as usual, of the worst kind.

There will be few pages assigned to future chapters of "Profiles in Courage" for the politicians that bully kids for their own gain. This week, that is exactly what we saw from the majority party in Congress, and we will expose this opportunistic bullying.

NO AMERICAN IS SAFE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. STRONG) for 5 minutes.

Mr. STRONG. Madam Speaker, I rise because no American is safe.

The United States Secretary of Homeland Security says that the American border is secure. The American people know better.

It is for these reasons I traveled to our southern border with several of my colleagues from the Committee on Homeland Security. Two adults attempted to climb the U.S. border fence the day we got there. They fell and were critically injured. American taxpayers are paying the bill.

Hospitals are inundated with non-U.S. citizens. They are not paying a dime for care.

Schools and teachers are attempting to teach students that are here unlaw-

fully. Many don't speak English, and they are delaying the education of those who do.

Illegal aliens attacked a Border Patrol agent while we were there. They are trying to kill American law enforcement agents. Under this administration, these agents in many cases are instructed to respond by firing pepper balls.

Some schools are placed on lockdown 4 to 10 times a week because Border Patrol agents are chasing drug dealers and human smugglers that have crossed the border and entered their elementary and middle school campuses.

Cartel members are recruiting 11- to 14-year-old children to drive vehicles to smuggle illegal aliens through multiple States and counties.

Practically everyone crossing illegally claims asylum. Think about it, they are coming from Mexico, Guatemala, Ecuador, Colombia, Haiti, Cuba, El Salvador, Iran, and, yes, they are coming from China, too. They are flying, in many cases, to the southern border to cross illegally.

Our meeting at the border port of entry had to be delayed because a mule tried to smuggle 70 pounds of cocaine right in front of 12 United States Congressmen.

The American people are being told by the Secretary of Homeland Security that our borders are secure. There is nothing further from the truth. While heroin, fentanyl, cocaine, marijuana, and human smuggling are flowing into our country at alarming rates, America is under attack.

The same laws in effect today were in effect when Donald Trump was President of the United States of America. You can talk about him all you want, but tell the facts. He sent them back and protected America.

Two weeks ago, President Trump's Border Patrol chief, Rodney Scott, gave us a brief. He said the problem is not with the laws; the problem is with this administration because they are not enforcing the laws that are already on the books. It is time to return these that are invading our country at the southern border to the country of their origin immediately.

On average, 300 United States men, women, and children are dying every day by overdose. EMTs, paramedics, nurses, doctors, and emergency rooms see it every day. America is under attack.

On our visit to the border, we met with Texas National Guard, United States Homeland Security, Border Patrol, Customs and Immigration, Homeland Security Investigations, and the Texas State Troopers.

Not one of these agencies or officials we met with could say that the U.S. border was secure. Not one.

Drug overdoses are a common occurrence in every county and city in America. This threat to America does not discriminate; rich, poor, Black, White. This is not a Democratic issue, nor is it a Republican issue. It is an

American issue. Our country is under attack.

No American is safe, and the American people deserve better.

During our trip, I was reminded that on his first day in office, the President terminated the emergency declaration at the southern border and halted border wall construction.

Over the last 2 years, U.S. Customs and Border Patrol have encountered over 4.7 million illegal immigrants trying to enter our country. That does not include the 1.2 million that have evaded Border Patrol. Yet, the administration tells the American people that the border is under control.

□ 1030

If our border is secure, then why over the last 2 years has the administration continued to send troops to our border? That alone signals to every American that we have a problem.

Why are they stopping border wall construction, which is an important first step in securing our border? I will introduce legislation to address this question.

My bill will resume border wall construction and ensure the President cannot withhold resources while sending our troops to the front line. Our country is under attack.

I am proud to introduce this legislation and other measures to ensure that if the administration expects our troops to defend our border, then we expect the administration to provide every tool, resource, and means of support to each of our brave men and women protecting our homeland security.

My fellow Americans, our country is under attack.

HONORING KEITH ABOUCHAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today, as I have in the past, on this floor for Republican staffers and Democratic staffers to thank them, to thank them for their service to the House of Representatives, for their service to the Congress of the United States, and for their service to individual Members and to leadership.

I do so again today for my friend who was with me for approximately a quarter of a century, Dr. Keith Abouchar. He has long served as my senior policy adviser on everything from oversight and financial services to congressional ethics and campaign finance.

After working with me for a few years as a professional staff member of the House Oversight Committee and the Committee on House Administration, he joined my leadership staff in 2003.

He recently retired at the beginning of this year from Federal service after serving this institution, as I said, for more than a quarter of a century.

Keith Abouchar, Dr. Abouchar, accomplished much in that time. He

played an instrumental role in negotiating the Help America Vote Act, spending many early mornings and late nights to enact a law that The Washington Post later called “the most significant piece of Federal election law since the Voting Rights Act.”

Congratulations, Keith.

Similarly, he was integral to helping us pass the ADA Amendments Act in 2008, which strengthened and carried out the intent of Congress for the ADA and for future generations.

Keith was also a steadfast advocate for our Federal employees and went to great lengths to stave off repeated partisan attempts to cut their pay and benefits and security.

Perhaps the most significant result of Keith's time in my office, of course, was his marriage to a fellow staffer whose name is Jane. Once coworkers, they are now parents to two incredible children, Adele and Henry. He cherishes his role as their father above all else.

It is in this spirit why, when looking back on my time with Keith, I don't think of the list of groundbreaking laws he helped enact, though that list is long. Instead, I think the virtues he displayed every day here on Capitol Hill are what I remember.

Keith has a doctorate in political science. He is an epic consumer of the printed word. You would typically find him with his head buried in the mountain of papers on his desk. He made frequent use of the Library of Congress, read multiple newspapers daily, and often left the office with a cache of unread papers under his arm.

Few can match Keith's mastery of technical details behind the issues on which he worked. Even fewer share his ability to understand how these details impact Americans' everyday lives.

That talent is rooted in Keith's thoughtful demeanor. Quick to offer a piece of wisdom, a word of encouragement, or an expression of gratitude, Keith's generosity made him a beloved feature of our team and of so many people in the private sector and public sector who dealt with him on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis.

We all admired the impressive enthusiasm he brought to his work. I can recall many meetings where Keith would speak so quickly and passionately about an issue that we could hardly keep pace.

A lifelong student of philosophy and a devout Catholic, Keith's earnest energy stems from his belief in the importance of our work in this, the people's House, and in the ethics that ought to guide each of us in this institution.

Through it all, Keith maintained a great sense of humor and never took himself too seriously. He was serious but not serious about himself.

Although I am proud to praise Keith, everyone should know that he is a man of deep humility and perhaps would not want me making this speech on the floor. He is probably squirming in his

seat listening to this, and I hope he is—listening, that is, not squirming.

Nevertheless, he ought to know how much we have appreciated his service. Who better to serve as my adviser on issues facing our Federal workers than a man who himself exemplifies the ideal Federal employee, a man of intellect, a man of integrity, a man of generosity, a man of humor, but a very serious, hardworking, and effective public servant.

Madam Speaker, if Keith is listening, and I hope he is, I thank him for everything he has done for our country and wish him well as he begins this new chapter in an extraordinarily productive career.

Madam Speaker, I bless him and his family, and I wish him Godspeed.

RECOGNIZING MARSHALL RAUCH'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of the 100th birthday of one of North Carolina's greatest statesmen, Marshall Rauch.

Growing up in Gaston County, Marshall Rauch was my State senator. He served 24 years in the State senate, representing Gaston, Cleveland, Lincoln, and Rutherford Counties, all parts of my congressional district.

Prior to that, he was on the Gastonia City Council for 14 years. He was one of the most powerful elected officials in the State, serving as chair of the North Carolina Senate Finance Committee, and that was before our Governor had a veto. His service was also groundbreaking. Senator Rauch was one of the first Jewish elected officials in North Carolina.

But let's back up to where it all started. Marshall Rauch came south from his native New York City to play basketball at Duke University in the 1940s. That was long before anyone had heard of Coach K. In fact, he played for Coach Eddie Cameron in the first year that Duke Indoor Stadium was open, long before that legendary venue would be renamed for Coach Cameron.

Marshall's time at Duke was cut short by World War II, where he served bravely. However, he will always have Duke to thank for meeting his wife of 64 years, Jeanne.

After the war, they settled in Jeanne's native Gaston County, where Marshall started Rauch Industries, thus beginning his prolific business and political career. Rauch Industries in Gastonia grew into a leading manufacturer. I knew it well because I mowed the grass around his facility for a number of years.

Rauch Industries provided jobs to thousands and stood as a pillar of the civic and charitable community in Gaston County, and we are grateful for it.

It was not lost on anyone that this business owned by a leading Jewish cit-

izen was one of the world's leading manufacturers of what, you may ask? Christmas ornaments.

Senator Rauch was recently quoted as saying: “In Judaism, there are eight degrees of charity, and the highest and best charity you can do is to help someone in a manner that they don't need help anymore.”

Senator, you have done that in many ways for lots of people for a number of years, and we are all the better for it.

REMEMBERING WALTER STINE ISENHOWER

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, few people these days associate politicians with humility, but Catawba County in my district benefited from the service of one such person for many decades. Walter Stine Isenhower, known as Mr. Catawba County, passed away in January at the age of 95, and I rise today to honor his legacy and service to our area.

Stine was a lifelong Republican who served as chairman of the Catawba County Board of Commissioners and as a member of the North Carolina House of Representatives.

His impact is still felt in the community from many issues that he championed, including support for the local community college and the county hospital.

Stine was a veteran of the U.S. Army and a volunteer fireman, and he held various leadership roles with his beloved church, Concordia Lutheran.

His favorite saying was that a day out of Catawba County is a day wasted. We thank Stine for devoting his life to making our lives better.

CONGRATULATING THE NAPAVINE TIGERS FOOTBALL TEAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. PEREZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PEREZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Napavine High School football team for a fabulous season. They have brought home yet another State championship in football.

The Tigers put up an impressive 41 points in one game. The defense stood tall, paying the way to secure the title.

Victories like these really highlight the importance of team sports and competition. These experiences bring communities together and teach students the value of teamwork and hard work.

Congratulations, Napavine Tigers. You have made your community and me very proud for an amazing season.

RECOGNIZING SANDRA BEDROSIAN SERMONE

Ms. PEREZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Sandra Bedrosian Sermone, a resident of my district, for her work on ADNP syndrome, a rare neurodevelopmental disorder.

In 2016, Sandra founded the ADNP Kids Research Foundation after her son was diagnosed with this disorder. Additionally, Sandra helped discover a